

Drunk Drivers: How to Spot Them

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

Drunk drivers give off numerous clues to their dangerous condition. Learn to spot them and avoid them in traffic.

- 1. They have trouble staying in the right position in their lane of traffic. Look for:
- ⇒ Weaving.
- ⇒ Swerving.
- ⇒ Straddling the lines that mark lanes.
- ⇒ Turning with too wide a radius.
- ⇒ Drifting around within their lane.
- ⇒ Almost hitting something.
- 2. They don't brake and accelerate normally:
- ⇒ They stop too far away or too close to things; they brake in a jerky manner.
- ⇒ They speed up or slow down for no apparent reason.
- ⇒ They drive more than 10 mph under the speed limit.

- 3. They don't pay attention and lose situational awareness:
- ⇒ Driving in the wrong lane or the wrong way on a one-way street
- ⇒ Responding very slowly to traffic signals or markings.
- ⇒ Stopping for no apparent reason.
- ⇒ Driving without headlights at night.
- ⇒ Failing to signal, or signaling and then not following through.
- 3. They show poor judgment:
- \Rightarrow Following too closely.
- ⇒ Changing lanes improperly or dangerously.
- ⇒ Making illegal or improper turns.
- ⇒ Driving on something other than the street.
- \Rightarrow Behaving unusually.

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